every province of Egypt, we shall be reluctant

that at some one place, or even at a few places, exceptionally held in the preceding month of Athyr^ that usually well-informed Plutarch the described the exception as if it had been the rule, of which this supposition he must have been wholly ignorant More probably the discrepancy is to be explained by change which came over the Egyptian calendar date of the inscription and the lifetime of Plutarch. when the inscription was drawn up in the Ptolemaic the festivals were dated by the old vague or movable and therefore rotated gradually through the whole circle the seasons; whereas at the time when Plutarch about the end of the first century, they were seemingly dated by the fixed Alexandrian year, accordingly had ceased to rotate.1 But even if we grant that in Plutarch's day The old the festivals festival of ^ad become stationary, still this would not explain why may have old festival of Khoiak had been transferred Athvr. J^{leen}_{r} . order to understand that transference it seems necessary to transferred suppose that when the Egyptians to Athyr gave to their months fixed P*aces *n tne so 🔨 ar **7**ear E^ians accepting the Alexandrian adopted system of intercalation, they at the same time transferred Aiex-Xe *he festivals from what may be called their artificial to their andrian natural dates. Under the old system a summer festival was scuLa sometimes held in winter and a winter festival in summer: a harvest celebration sometimes fell at the season of sowing,

and a sowing celebration at the season of harvest. People might reconcile themselves to such anomalies so long as they knew that they were only temporary, and that in the course of time the festivals would necessarily return to their But it must have been proper seasons. otherwise when they adopted a fixed instead of a movable year, and so arrested the rotation of the festivals for For they ever. could not but be aware that every festival would thenceforth continue to occupy for all time that particular place in the solar year which it chanced to occupy in the year 30 B.C., when the calendar became fixed. If in that particular year it happened, as it might have happened, that the summer

 1 See above, pp. 24 $sg._{9}$ 27 $sg._{9}$ 49 sg.